

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

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USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAJ-01 NIC-01 /088 W

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R 271018Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0958

INFO CINCPAC

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

USUN NEW YORK 228

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NP

SUBJECT: KING PROPOSES NEPAL BE DECLARED "ZONE OF PEACE"

1. SPEAKING AT FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR CORONATION GUESTS
FEBRUARY 25 KING BIRENDRA PROPOSED THAT NEPL BE DECLARED
A "YMNE OF PEACE." NOTING THAT NEPAL ENJOYED "DEEP AND
EXTENSIVE" RELATIONS WITH INDIA AND "CLOSE AND FREINDLY"
RELATIONS WITH CHINA AND HAD, IN FACT, CONCLUDED FORMAL
FRIENDSHIP TREATIES WITH BOTH, THE KING SAID THAT
CONTINUED PEACE WAS VITAL TO NEPAL'S DEVELOPMENT. HIS
PROPOSAL." #3 -ID,6 - - 049.)73\$ %6 "FEAR OR THREAT
FROM ANY QUARTER OR COUNTRY." BUT HE DID NOT
WISH TO SEE NEPAL'S "FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE THWARTED BY
THE CHANGIRG FLUX OF TIME WHEN UNDERSTANDING IS REPLACED BY
MISUNDERSTANDING, WHEN CONCILIATION IS REPLACED BY
BELLIGERENCY AND WAR." IT WAS IN SUCH PERSPECTIVE, HE
CONCLUDED, THAT NEPAL SOUGHT PEACE "WITH THE HELP OF ITS
FRIENDS."

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2. COMMENT: THE KING'S PROPOSAL CAUGHT MANY BY SURPRISE. IT IS FAR FROM CLEAR WHAT THE KING HAS IN MIND; WHETHER, FOR EXAMPLE, HE SEEKS A MULTILATERAL ACCORD, BILATERAL DECLARATIONS BY OUTSIDE POWERS OR SIMPLY AN UNDERSTANDING OF THIS SPECIAL INTERNATIONAL POSITION HE DESIRES FOR NEPAL. THE USSR PROMPTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT IN THE NAME OF DEPUTY CHAIRMAN KULATOV, LEADER OF THE SOVIET CORONATION DELEGATION, SUPPORTIN THE KING'S PROPOSAL AND REITERATING ITS "TRADITIONAL FRIENDSHIP" FOR NEPAL. ONE MFA OFFICIAL (WHO CLAIMED THE MFA HAD NO ADVANCE WARNING OF THE IDEA) SPECULATED THAT THE KING WOULD SEEK SOME FORM OF MULTILATERAL DECLARATION THROUGH THE UN TO "RATIFY NEPAL'S POSITION AS THE SWITZERLAND OF ASIA."

3. DESPITE THE KING'S DISCLAIMER THAT HIS IDEA DID NOT ARISE FROM "THREAT FROM ANY QUARTER" THERE IS LITTLE DOUBT IN KATHMANDU THAT THE PROPOSAL IS DESIGNED TO ASSURE HMG INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT SHOULD INDIA DECIDE TO PUT PRESSURE ON NEPAL. THE KING'S SPEECH WAS UNDOUBTEDLY MADE WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE INDIANS AND WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF GOI IS LUKEWARM TO IDEA, PARTICULARLY GIVEN REFERENCES TO BELLIGERENCY AND WAR. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY DELHI'S READING OF THE INDIAN REACTION.

4. DESPITE PROMPT SOVIET RESPONSE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD MAKE ANY STATEMENT UNTIL DETAILS OF PROPOSAL ARE KNOWN.
CARGO

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